

Mentor Michigan Census Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Mentor Michigan Census (MMC)?

The MMC is a survey of organizations operating mentoring programs in the State of Michigan. In Wave I of the MMC conducted in the Fall of 2004, 105 organizations responded to the MMC. In Wave II of the MMC conducted in the Spring of 2005, 136 organizations responded.

What is the purpose of the MMC?

The primary purpose of the MMC is to understand the scope and nature of mentoring and mentoring organizations in Michigan. Specifically, there are three key objectives:

1. Identify, count, describe, and track mentoring organizations, programs, mentors, and mentees.
2. Understand program components, processes, resources, and needs.
3. Encourage and support program evaluation.

Who are the respondents?

Respondents to the survey are representatives of organizations that operate mentoring programs.

Why is the MMC being conducted now?

In 1999 (then Michigan Attorney General) Governor Granholm began Mentor Michigan as a way to provide stable and caring adults to children who need them. The MMC is a way to better understand the scope and reach of current mentoring programs. In the future, when additional data is collected, the MMC will track the progress of programs and the overall mentoring movement in Michigan.

How was the MMC conducted?

The MCC data were collected via an online survey. In Wave II, mentoring organizations had the opportunity to view and submit responses via hard copy or via the online survey. The vast majority responded via the online survey.

How does Mentor Michigan define mentoring?

Mentor Michigan has adopted the National Mentoring Partnership's definition.

Mentoring is a structured and trusting relationship that brings young people together with caring individuals who offer guidance, support and encouragement aimed at developing the competence and character of the mentee. Responsible mentoring can take many forms:

- Traditional mentoring (one adult to one young person)
- Group mentoring (one adult to up to four young people)
- Team mentoring (several adults working with small groups of young people, in which the adult to youth ratio is not greater than 1:4)
- Peer mentoring (caring youth mentoring other youth)
- E-mentoring (mentoring via e-mail and the Internet)

What can you do with the data?

Organizations can compare their individual data and situations with the results from the Census. It can be useful for supporting grant applications and generally understanding the nature and scope of mentoring programs and organizations. The data provides mentoring organizations a framework on which they can measure their own performance. In fact, 14% of organizations responding to Wave II used Wave I data for internal planning or evaluation and 11% used MMC Wave I data as support for grant applications.

What are the major findings from the first two waves of the study?

- A total of 27,090 young people were mentored through 233 distinct programs operated by 136 various community, school, faith, government and business-based organizations in 2004. As only 136 of the 207 (66%) identified mentoring organizations responded to the MMC, it is reasonable to estimate that the number of Michigan youth benefiting from having a mentor is more than 30,000.
- Nearly 16,000 (15,977) Michigan residents served as mentors in 2004.
- Mentoring organizations are located in 41 of Michigan's 83 counties.
- The number of active mentors grew from **9,108** in September of 2004 to 10,546 in February of 2005.
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- The number of children served by mentoring programs grew by 2,216 from Fall of 2004 through Spring of 2005.

For more details, please see "The State of Mentoring in Michigan" (PowerPoint presentation of 45 slides) or the Executive Summary on the Mentor Michigan web site at www.mentormichigan.org. You may also contact Paula Kaiser VanDam at (517) 373-1376 or kaiserp@michigan.gov.

How can I participate? Why should I participate?

If you are a representative of an organization providing mentoring programs to youth in Michigan, please register your program via the www.mentormichigan.org web site. All verified registrants will be asked to participate in future of waves of MMC.

Mentor Michigan will provide every program completing the Census with a summary of results. This will be sent to the person who completes this survey (contact person) via email.

We plan to conduct this survey periodically over the next several years so we can track progress and identify challenges facing Michigan's mentoring programs. By participating, you help us all understand progress and challenges in our efforts to provide a mentor to every child in Michigan who needs one.

How can I get more information?

In the Fall and Winter of 2004 a series of regional meetings were held where data from the MMC were presented and discussed. Look for notices of the 2005 Mentor Michigan regional meetings. Also be sure to sign up for the Mentor Michigan Listserv by visiting www.mentormichigan.org.

Who conducted the Mentor Michigan Census?

Kahle Research Solutions has been contracted by the Michigan Community Service Commission to design, conduct, analyze and report the MMC.